

ABSTRACT

In preparation for proposed spot safety improvements to drainage lines and stormwater management facilities to be undertaken by the Delaware Department of Transportation, the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (Berger), performed architectural resource investigations and National Register eligibility evaluations along Grubb Road (N209) between Naamans Road and Marsh Road in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware.

A review of survey files at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) identified 16 previously identified and inventoried historical resources in the area of potential effect (APE) for the proposed improvements. One of the 16 resources, the Village of Arden Historic District (N-414), has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Field investigations revealed that four of the 16 previously inventoried historical resources (N-552, N-1165, N-1223, and N-1527) had been destroyed since they were last surveyed. New housing along Grubb Road now provides a visual buffer and physical barrier between the road and one of the resources (N-1190) shown on DESHPO maps as adjacent to Grubb Road and within the APE. No longer within the APE, this resource did not receive further documentation and evaluation as part of this project. The field review also showed that the Village of Arden (N-414) retained sufficient integrity to convey its significance and should remain listed in the National Register. Eight additional 50-year-old resources were identified within the APE and were recorded for subsequent documentation and evaluation.

After applying the National Register eligibility criteria to the identified historical resources, Berger recommends one as eligible for listing in the National Register. The Star of Bethel International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge No. 19, located on the northwest corner of Grubb and Marsh roads, is recommended as eligible under Criterion A for its historical association with the Odd Fellows fraternal and mutual aid society and for its continued use as an Odd Fellows lodge since its original construction in 1853. Research indicates that Bethel is the oldest continuously used I.O.O.F. lodge hall in New Castle County. The lodge building also has retail space on its first story that reflects the commercial activity that sustained the "Grubbs Corners" crossroads during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The remaining historical resources not already listed in the National Register do not appear to meet National Register significance criteria.